

Appl No. 10/634,110
Amdt. Dated January 30, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of 9/26/2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A security system for monitoring the interior of an enclosed container comprising:

a housing having first and second ends carried by said container, said first end being disposed within said container, and said second end being disposed outside said container;

a sensor carried within said first end of said housing for monitoring conditions within said container and signaling changes in said conditions;

an external status indicator carried within said second end of said housing for signaling current security status of the container;

said indicator having a first condition visually signaling a secured status within said container and a second condition visually signaling detection of a breach;

a central processing unit carried within said housing in communication with said sensor and said status indicator said central processing unit receiving information monitored by said sensor comparing said information against a set of established parameters and signaling said status indicator detection of a breach of said parameters;

a remote access device operatively associated with said sensor for deactivating and reactivating said sensor;

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whereby said security system provides a first visual signal on the exterior of the container when the conditions within the container are within said parameters and a secured second visual signal when said parameters have been breached indicating tampering or unauthorized access into said container.

Claim 2 (original): The security system of claim 1 wherein said processing unit includes a computer readable medium for defining the type change within said container and the date and time of said change.

Claim 3 (original): The security system of claim 2 wherein said change may constitute a change in light conditions, temperature, motion, sound, radiation and any combination thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The security system of claim 1 wherein said remote access device is operative to receive, display and print condition information generated by said processing unit.

Claim 5 (original): The security system of claim 1 wherein said remote accessing device includes a global positioning system, whereby said remote access device is operative to generate location at the time of breach.

Claim 6 (original): The security system of claim 1 wherein said external status indicator includes indicator lights.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The security system of claim 1 including a power source within said housing for operating said sensing unit.

Claim 8 (original): The security system of claim 1 wherein said housing is removably mounted in an end wall or door of said container.

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Claim 9 (original): The security system of claim 1 wherein said container is portable by land and sea transport.

Claim 10 (original): The security system of claim 1 wherein said second end includes an infrared port for receiving and transmitting information.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A sensing device for monitoring conditions within an interior of an enclosed container, said sensor device being operative to detect changes in conditions within said container caused by tampering or unauthorized access to the container, said sensor device comprising:

a housing for mounting through a side of said container;

a sensor dome including a sensor within said housing and positioned within said container for monitoring conditions within said container;

an external status indicator in communication with said sensor positioned within said housing and on an exterior of said container side, said status indicator signaling a current security status within said container based on signal output of said sensor;

said indicator having a first condition signaling a secured status and a second condition signaling a breached status;

whereby said external status indicator provides a visual signal to an inspector on the exterior of the container indicating an unbreached and a breached container.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The sensing device of claim 11 including a central processing unit associated with said sensor and status indicator, said processing unit

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being operative to monitor signals sent by said sensor, comparing said signals against a norm and sending signals to said status indicator indicating breach and no breach of said container interior.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The sensing device of claim 12 wherein said status indicator includes a port communicating with a wireless device, said port sending said breach and no breach signals to said wireless device.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The sensing device of claim 12 wherein said breach signal includes data indicating type of breach and time of breach.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The sensing device of claim 12 wherein said breach signal includes data indicating location of said container at the time of said breach.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The sensing device of claim 13 wherein said wireless device comprises one of a palm pilot, a laptop and a desk top.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method of monitoring a shipping container comprising:

providing a housing with an exterior monitor and an interior monitor;

positioning said housing to extend through an exterior surface of said container so that said interior monitor is positioned within the interior of said container and said exterior monitor is positioned outside said container;

causing said interior monitor to sense between secure condition and breached condition within said container and to send signals in response to said conditions;

providing a central processing unit within said housing in communication

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with said interior and exterior monitors which receives signals from said interior monitor indicating secure and breached conditions within said container;

providing said exterior monitor with a plurality of signaling elements and activating selected of said elements in response to secure signals from said central processing unit and activating other of said elements in response to breached signals from said central processing unit; wherein,

when said container is in a secured condition a first signal is continuously provided indicating said container is in said secured condition and when said container is in a breached condition a second signal is continuously sent indicating said container is in said breached condition.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 17 including providing that said interior monitor sense changes including at least one of light conditions, temperature, sound and radiation.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17 including providing independent visual indicators for said exterior monitor.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 17 including providing satellite communication and monitoring the location of said container.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 17 including providing a remote access device in communication with said exterior monitor which functions to record at least one of date, time and location of a breach of said container.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 17 including providing a remote access device in communication with said exterior monitor and said central processing unit which

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functions to activate, deactivate and re-set said central processing unit.